

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- [c1] 1. A process of verifying a mobile communication terminal device, said process comprising:
- receiving from the terminal device an identifier transmitted, at least in part, on a cellular network, the terminal device having restricted access to the network;
- analyzing said identifier to determine whether the terminal device should continue to have restricted access to the network; and
- transmitting upon favorable completion of said analyzing step, a signal to the terminal device allowing the terminal device to have less restricted access to the network.
- [c2] 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the terminal device is a cellular telephone and wherein the identifier received during said receiving step includes first and second numbers, each of said first and second numbers being essentially unique to the cellular telephone.
- [c3] 3. The process of claim 2, wherein said first number is in mobile identification number (MIN) format.
- [c4] 4. The process of claim 1, wherein said analyzing step comprises accessing a customer data record associated with the identifier.
- [c5] 5. The process of claim 4, wherein said analyzing step further comprises transmitting signals representative of queries to the terminal device, the queries requesting a prospective consumer of cellular network services to provide data for comparison to data stored in said customer data record.

[c6] 6. The process of claim 1, wherein the signal transmitted during said transmitting step is indicative of a replacement identifier for storage in a memory of said terminal device, said replacement identifier being recognized by the cellular network as entitled to said less restricted access.

[c7] 7. The process of claim 6, wherein the signal transmitted during said transmitting step is further indicative of an instruction to overwrite said identifier with said replacement identifier.

[c8] 8. A process for manufacturing a cellular telephone comprising the steps of:
 assembling a memory, a processor, a receiver, and a transmitter; and
 storing in said memory a preliminary identifier, said preliminary identifier defining a substantially unique identification and allowing initial access to a cellular network for verification but being insufficient to allow further use of said network.